



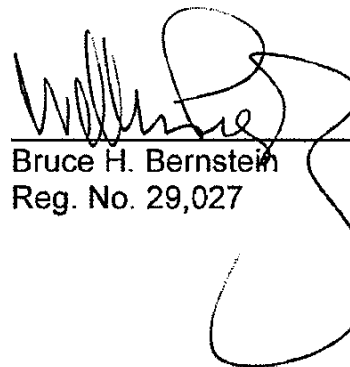
- (5) Japanese Laid-Open Patent Publication No. HEI 10-293720, and patent family members European Patent Application Publication EP 0 863 464; and U.S. Patent No. 6,546,467.

The relevance of these documents, as ascertained with respect to the claims of the International Application by the International Examiner are set forth in the International Preliminary Report on Patentability. The Examiner is respectfully requested to consider the same with respect to the pending claims.

Applicants note that all of the above-noted documents were previously cited (and copies provided as required) in the Information Disclosure Statement that was filed on August 4, 2006, and thus, copies of these documents are not provided herewith. Also, Applicants note that no fee or certification is required to ensure consideration of these materials, as they were already submitted, as well as because no action on the merits has been issued in the present application.

Should the Examiner have any questions, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Hazuki OKABAYASHI et al.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bruce H. Bernstein", is written over a horizontal line. A large, loopy flourish extends from the bottom of the signature.

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